

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The efficiency of document retrieval work is improved by retrieving suitable related words conforming to the user's intention. The document retrieval method for retrieving desired documents from a document database by using a key word includes: extracting related words relating to an input key word and terms of validity of the related words; retrieving documents by using the extracted related words as retrieval words; and selecting documents that satisfy the extracted terms of validity from among the retrieved documents.

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